

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

SUMMARY: IN BRIEF INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH PRESIDENT DISCUSSED
DECENTRALIZATION, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, STRENGTHENING
YOUTH PROGRAMS, AND STRENGTHENING ARMED FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. SPEECH OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR ON APRIL 3 INDEPENDENCE
ANNIVERSARY PROMISED THAT FOURTH FIVE YEAR PLAN WILL
EXTEND TO ECONOMIC SPHERE THE POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE
DECENTRALIZATION NOW TAKING PLACE THROUGH REFORM OF
REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION. FIRST
DECENTRALIZATION OF PLANNING WILL BE APPLIED IN THREE
REGIONS WHERE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM IS BEING CARRIED OUT;
THIES, DIOURBEL AND SINE SALOUM.

2. IN CONTEXT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, PRESIDENT
NOTED SOCIAL PROGRESS MADE IN SENEGAL ACCORDING WOMEN
THEIR RIGHTS. HE OBSERVED THAT TODAY SENEGAL HAS
WOMEN DEPUTIES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND "TOMORROW"
WILL HAVE WOMEN IN THE CABINET. AS WITH MUCH OF
DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, SECTION
OF SPEECH DEALING WITH YOUTH DISCUSSED SENEGAL'S ACCOM-
PLISHMENTS BUT DID NOT PROPOSE SIGNIFICANT AND SPECIFIC

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PLISHMENTS BUT DID NOT PROPOSE SIGNIFICANT AND SPECIFIC

CHANGES. SENGHOR CITED PROGRESS IN EXPANDING TECHNICAL EDUCATION. HE PROMISED GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE STEPS TO REJUVENATE NATIONAL YOUTH MOVEMENT AND NATIONAL PIONEER MOVEMENT.

3. PRESIDENT NOTED THAT GOVERNMENT WAS IN PROCESS OF REORGANIZING ARMED FORCES, INCREASING SIZE OF ARMY, AND ACQUIRING ADDITIONAL ARMS. HE ALSO SAID GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING MAKING MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATORY FOR ALL GRADUATES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE RUMORS THAT WOMEN WOULD ENTER CABINET WHEN MINOR CABINET CHANGES TOOK PLACE LAST MONTH, NO WOMAN WAS MADE MINISTER. MANY EXPECT WOMAN MINISTER WHEN CABINET IS NEXT RESHUFFLED. GOVERNMENT AND UNION PROGRESSISTE SENEGALAISE HAVE TRIED RECONSTRUCT YOUTH MOVEMENTS FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, BUT WITH SCANT SUCCESS. IN ARMY, WE NOTED SOME CHANGES IN COMMAND STRUCTURE DURING PAST YEAR WHICH APPEARED TO CONCENTRATE MORE POWER IN HANDS OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF; WE EXPECT NO FURTHER FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES. IT REASONABLE TO EXPECT SOME ENLARGEMENT IN SIZE OF ARMY IN VIEW SENEGAL'S COMMITMENT OF FORCES TO MIDDLE EAST UNEF AND SENEGALESE ARMY'S CONTINUED BORDER RESPONSIBILITIES IN CASAMANCE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN ANY CONCRETE INDICATION THAT SUCH AUGMENTATION IS TAKING PLACE AND PRESIDENTS COMMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED MAINLY PLEASE MILITARY. WITH REGARD EQUIPMENT, PRESIDENT PROMISED NEW MATERIAL TO ARMY LAST APRIL 4, BUT WE UNAWARE OF ANY GOS MOVE SIGNIFICANTLY TO INCREASE ARMS AT DISPOSITION OF ARMED FORCES OTHER THAN PLANNED ADDITIONAL OF PATROL BOATS WHICH WERE ORDERED OVER YEAR AGO.
AGGREY

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